Conference Call, 08/15/01

Workload and User Pop Reports

The data issues log has been updated from various emails, previous conference calls, and Statistical Officer input consolidated by Linda Querec; distributed to Area Statistical officers for review prior to next week's conference call. Joan and Paul are working on resolving issues associated with implementing use of specific Provider Types as criteria for determining tribal (CHS638) workload reportability. They are also working on recommendations for addressing the Dental issues, including the manner in which dental records will be moved onto the Dental Table. Stan suggested we need to determine a cutoff of what issues are to be included in the end-September reports and which are not. Patricia asked that those impacting direct care be considered as most important, and the rest can be deferred.

We were reminded of the Workload file cutoff dates: The cutoff for receipt of FY98-FY00 export files is September 1,2001. The cutoff for receipt of FY2001 export files will be set sometime in November. Workload reports for FY98-FY00 will be run at the end of September, and these will be final, with no changes in the data reported after that.

Patricia reviewed the workload for Phoenix and indicated that it looks good (6 mos of Phx med ctr may require re-export). We have what appear to be duplicates in the NPIRS database: FY99, 8-10 locations appear to have dupes.

The monthly User Pop reports will continue to be produced using the EXACT unduplication method. Area Statistical Officers are in agreement on the use of Vality with an algorithm we develop from Karen's previous work with the Stat Officers. Karen indicated we will aim at implementing automated use of Vality by January. Dan Cameron has suggested we use SSN in the unduplication, rather than Last name and First name, because SSN is most important, added to DOB and gender. Karen indicated we have less than 5% of people in most sites without a SSN.

Patricia authorized release of the July Workload and User Pop reports with an email from Linda to the Area Stat Officers that the reports are available. Paul will ensure that the reports include a description of the unduplication method before putting them out. Patricia will ask Linda to email the Stat Officers.

CHS Processing – The plan is to ensure a daily backup has been done on the database, run 'before' reports, process the unique set of CHS638 file, then run 'after' reports. Joan will find out how they match visits and email Patricia and Debra for approval to proceed.

Data Warehouse

1. **PCC Encounter Export:** This preparation has involved 3 steps: 1) test and approval of a sample (test) file, 2) receipt and verification of a test file off a real site database, and 3) receipt of actual files from the 9 pilot sites.

1) Karen signed off on the sample (test) file received from Lori Butcher. We'll ask for 1A and 2A (Inpt) reports from the sites generated at same time they do the export. Lori will track several factors (e.g., # of files sent, sizes, transmission times, box id's and types). Debra is working on how people will actually verify workloads.

2) The ftp site has been set up and we are ready to receive the test file from the Cherokee site database.

2. **Pat Reg export**: The comprehensive registration export to load the PDW from the 9 pilot sites will also serve as a pilot for the comprehensive registration export from all sites due to start later this fall. The programmer conference call yesterday helped clarify issues and compatibility. The Cherokee trial export is scheduled for next week and will be comprehensive. Ray Willie and Carlos Cordova are getting AIB modified for this export. The export will come to an ftp site in the PDW where we will run AIB to prepare it for the database load. (This modified AIB won't be the one to be used for the full IHS-wide registration export later this fall; after the pilot these same people will prepare the small modifications needed for Area use of AIB in the full comprehensive export.) The following week, beginning 8/27, we will export registration data for all 9 pilot RPMS sites. On time, on target, no showstoppers seen at this point.

3. **Test Plan** – Meeting scheduled next week, following clarification of intelligent error checking requirements, to work out a test plan. (If Patricia and/or Debra are unable to attend, Joan to email notes to them Wednesday morning for their info and input.) Target is to have a test plan documented by end of next week.

4. **Mapping Source export format to Target in PDW**: Entering visit metadata this week and will probably need to clean up next week along with addressing any additional mods to data model determined next Monday. Registration mapping is less clear. Stephanie mapped source to target fields in an xls spreadsheet to make entry to Access database easier and cleaner, which can then be uploaded to Data Warehouse Mgr. We can get help to data enter

5. **SAS Work**: Meetings scheduled next week with Brian (SAS) to clarify intelligent error checking and reporting processing requirements. Discussion will begin with the Workload Processing documentation recently revised and with any business rules defined to date.

6. **Vality**: Karen completed training on Vality and spent time with a Vality consultant determining strategy for implementing Vality and processing files on a weekly basis. It's not a simple strategy—will document it for our review so she can begin programming it. Vality has had experience implementing the strategy Karen developed with them; they have real life examples. We will have to come up with strategies for handling challenges (e.g., incremental drift).

Access and Use of Current NPIRS Database

Gary Hartz has not signed off on document, but his office is reviewing it and doing some reformatting of it. Debra will check on its status. The current way for handling a request for data is that the system owner has to sign off on the request; currently the system owner is Edna Paisano. (If an internal person uses data for authorized internal purposes, it's not research; if an internal person puts data outside, by definition it's generalizable and considered research.) Stan will discuss with Ken Russell the need for NPIRS to develop an internal procedure for handling requests, involving an internal gatekeeper. We've also asked for a policy that makes Edna's job easier so she doesn't have to approve every request. Debra expressed a concern that we must protect any variables that can be even indirectly used to identify an individual or tribe. The policy we wrote is very narrow and addresses only internal access by the Director to manage the agency – does not address access to data from outside IHS.

Other

Karen will provide a presentation of Vality for Area Stat Officers via video conferencing sometime toward the end of the calendar year.